

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings:

1-77. (Canceled)

78. (New) A method comprising:

receiving, from a user, input that selects a plurality of database objects to be  
transported from a source database to a target database, wherein the plurality  
of database objects includes at least one of:  
a view,  
a sequence,  
a dimension,  
a cube,  
an ETL mapping,  
a queue,  
an external table,  
a stored procedure, or  
a database object, wherein the metadata for the database object is stored  
outside of the source database and the target database;  
reading metadata about each selected object to determine a manner in which to  
transport the selected objects to the target database;  
storing meta-metadata that indicates the manner in which to transport the selected  
objects to the target database; and  
based on the meta-metadata, performing operations to transport the selected objects to  
the target database.

79. (New) The method of Claim 78, further comprising:  
in response to a failure occurring during the transport of any of the selected objects to  
the target database, rolling back all changes made during the transport of the  
selected objects to the target database.
80. (New) The method of Claim 78, wherein the selected objects includes a database  
object that has metadata stored outside of the source database, and further wherein reading  
the metadata includes reading the metadata from a source repository outside of the source  
database.
81. (New) The method of Claim 80, wherein a source database server manages data from  
the source database, a target database server manages data from the target database, and the  
source repository is a repository associated with an application separate from both the source  
database server and the target database server.
82. (New) The method of Claim 81, wherein the application is an extraction,  
transformation and loading application.
83. (New) The method of Claim 78, wherein reading metadata about each selected object  
includes reading metadata from the source database.
84. (New) The method of Claim 78, further comprising analyzing the metadata about  
each selected object for dependencies.
85. (New) The method of Claim 84, wherein analyzing the metadata for dependencies  
includes analyzing the metadata to ensure proper order of loading of the metadata into the  
target database.

86. (New) A method comprising:

receiving, from a user, input that selects a plurality of database objects to be

transported from a source database to a target database, wherein the plurality of database objects includes at least one of:

a view,

a sequence,

a dimension,

a cube,

an ETL mapping,

a queue,

an external table,

a stored procedure, or

a database object, wherein the metadata for the database object is stored outside of the source database and the target database;

reading metadata about each selected object to determine a manner in which to transport the selected objects to the target database;

storing meta-metadata that indicates the manner in which to transport the selected objects to the target database; and

providing the meta-metadata to the target database, wherein the target database is able to cause the selected objects to be transported to the target database based on the meta-metadata.

87. (New) The method of Claim 86, further comprising:

in response to a failure occurring during the transport of any of the selected objects to the target database, rolling back all changes made during the transport of the selected objects to the target database.

88. (New) The method of Claim 86, wherein the selected objects includes a database object that has metadata stored outside of the source database, and further wherein reading the metadata includes reading the metadata from a source repository outside of the source database.

89. (New) The method of Claim 88, wherein a source database server manages data from the source database, a target database server manages data from the target database, and the source repository is a repository associated with an application separate from both the source database server and the target database server.

90. (New) The method of Claim 89, wherein the application is an extraction, transformation and loading application.

91. (New) The method of Claim 86, wherein reading metadata about each selected object includes reading metadata from the source database.

92. (New) The method of Claim 86, further comprising analyzing the metadata about each selected object for dependencies.

93. (New) The method of Claim 92, wherein analyzing the metadata for dependencies includes analyzing to ensure proper order of loading the metadata into the target database.

94. (New) A method comprising:

receiving, at a target database, meta-metadata that indicates a manner in which to transport user selected objects from a source database to the target database; wherein the selected objects include at least one of:

- a view,
- a sequence,
- a dimension,
- a cube,
- an ETL mapping,
- a queue,
- an external table,
- a stored procedure, or
- a database object, wherein the metadata for the database object is stored outside of the source database and the target database; and

based on the meta-metadata, performing operations to transport the selected objects to the target database.

95. (New) The method of Claim 94, further comprising:
- in response to a failure occurring during the transport of any of the selected objects to the target database, rolling back all changes made during the transport of the selected objects to the target database.
96. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the selected objects includes a database object that has metadata stored outside of the source database.

97. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the meta-metadata indicates relationships between the objects.

98. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the meta-metadata indicates a sequence of operations to be performed to transport the selected objects to the target database.

99. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the meta-metadata indicates mechanisms by which to transport the selected objects to the target database.